

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04440 111315Z

53

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 SSC-01 /039 W

----- 122324

P 111215Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9715

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4440

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT MORG CB

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP OF FANK AND CABINET  
RESHUFFLE

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING NOTE FROM PRIME MINISTER  
LONG BORET GIVING DETAILS ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT.  
BEGIN TEXT. (TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH)

I HAVE TRIED REACHING YOU BY TELEPHONE SINCE THIS  
MORNING BUT MY TELEPHONE DOES NOT WORK. THE PURPOSE WAS  
TO INFORM YOU OF THE MARSHAL'S FINAL DECISION ON THE  
SUBJECT OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP.

1. HE APPROVED THE NOMINATION OF LTG SAK SUTSAKHAN  
AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF FANK REPLACING LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ.  
THE DECREE MAKING THIS CHANGE WILL BE SIGNED THIS EVENING  
AND ANNOUNCED PUBLICALLY BY MEANS OF A MESSAGE BROADCAST  
OVER THE RADIO.

2. HE HAS DECIDED TO DO AWAY WITH THE POST OF  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF FANK AND THE DECREE EFFECTING  
THIS WILL ALSO BE SIGNED THIS EVENING AT THE SAME  
TIME.

3. HE IS IN AGREEMENT ABOUT NAMING LTG SAK SUTSAKHAN  
AS MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, BUT THIS NOMINATION  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 04440 111315Z

WILL TAKE PLACE ONLY AS PART OF THE SOON-TO-COME RESHUF-

FLING OF THE CABINET. THIS WILL NOT BE MENTIONED IN THIS EVENING'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

4. IN THE SAME ANNOUNCEMENT HE WILL INDICATE THAT HE HAS ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER OF RESHUFFLE THE PRESENT CABINET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. THE CHANGE OF COMMAND BETWEEN LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ AND LTG SAK SUTSAKHAN WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW, MARCH 12, AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALANCE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RANKING OFFICERS OF FANK/GENERAL STAFF AND NATIONAL DEFENSE, THE PRESIDENTS OF THE TWO CHAMBERS AND THE PRIME MINISTER. LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ WILL BE DECORATED IN THE COURSE OF THIS CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY.

6. HE IS ALSO IN AGREEMENT WITH THE IDEA OF NAMING LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ AS AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES BUT HE ASKED ME TO ANNOUNCE NOTHING ABOUT THIS FOR THE PRESENT. HE WILL INFORM THE PERSON IN QUESTION A FEW DAYS AFTER THE CHANGE OF COMMAND. THIS WILL OCCUR, HE TOLD ME IN THE COURSE OF A RECEPTION OR DINNER THAT HE WILL GIVE IN HONOR OF LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ.

7. AS FAR AS THE NEW STRUCTURE OF MILITARY ADMINISTRATION IS CONCERNED, HE HAS PROVISIONALLY ADOPTED THE STATUTE IN EFFECT PRIOR TO THE NAMING OF LTG SOSTHENE AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. HE APPEARS TO BE VERY RETICENT TO UNDERTAKE ANY CHANGE CONTRARY TO THE WISHES OF PARLIAMENT.

8. THE ADMINISTRATION, RATHER THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES AT THE EMG (GENERAL STAFF) OF FANK, WILL REMAIN IN PLACE. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES, AT LEAST NOT UNTIL SOME TIME HAS PASSED.

END TEXT.

DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC NOTES, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 MAR 1975  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PHNOM04440  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750084-1167  
**From:** PHNOM PENH  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750362/aaaacdwwf.tel  
**Line Count:** 96  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FORTHCOMING CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP OF FANK AND CABINET RESHUFFLE  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, MORG, CB, (LONG BORET), (SAK SUTSAKHAN), (SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006